Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome has killed nearly 2,000 people in New York City. Columbia University students, faculty, staff, and alumni are among those who have died. There is no known cure for AIDS. But one of its most insidious symptoms is ignorance—about what the disease is and how it's transmitted.

The Columbia community is dedicated to education. This special issue is dedicated, in turn, to increasing the community’s awareness and understanding of the fatal epidemic that is the number one health threat in the nation.